



## CSZ JUNE UPDATE

### High Holidays

It's hard to believe, but it's time to start thinking about the High Holidays already. Rosh Hashana starts Sunday evening September 8, and Yom Kippur starts Tuesday Evening September 17th.

This year our services will be held, once again, at the Unitarian Center. A search committee looked diligently for a location that would accommodate all who attend in one space, but concluded that all viable alternatives were already used by other Synagogues.

To handle the over-crowding problem, we will use the ticket system that worked so well last year. Last year, all members who requested guest tickets, received them, and the atmosphere at services returned to one of calmness. Once again for the evening services the sanctuary will be reserved for members and their invited guests. All others will be directed to the chapel and the Martin Luther King room, where sound will be piped in and volunteers will "officiate". Members will be limited to one guest a piece for the evening services.

A ticket request form will be sent to all members with next month's Forward. You must return the request form by August 1. Tickets will be mailed by August 23rd.

A member must be in good standing to receive tickets. This means that, (1) your 1990-91 dues pledge must be paid in full, and

(2) at least the first installment of your 1991-92 dues pledge must also be paid. The Va'ad (board) of the congregation voted to make one significant change in this year's policy. Because we are quite concerned that we raise enough revenue to avoid the budget crises we faced this fiscal year, we want to maximize the contributions made at the high Holidays. Consequently, the Va'ad voted to ask for a suggested donation of \$40.00 to \$60.00 for each guest ticket requested. The suggested donation for those with low income will be \$18.00. The donations should be returned with the ticket request form. No one will be refused a ticket because of an inability to contribute. Because we want to continue our tradition of making our services as accessible as possible, we will ask members and guests who can afford to do so, to help with donations for those with limited incomes.

Keep in mind that the daytime services will be open to all, without tickets, as will the chapel and Martin Luther King room during the evening services, also keep in mind that we are asking for help to continue the beautiful and moving services for which we are known, and to help to continue to provide services and support throughout the year.

There is a service schedule on the last page of this newsletter.

### High Holiday Service Participation

In our synagogue's tradition of lay

leadership and congregant participation in ritual observance, we are once again offering the opportunity for any member to have a part in our High Holiday services. Readings in English, chants in Hebrew, Torah portions, and shofar blowing parts will be available. See the enclosed High Holidays Participation Form for further details and deadlines for volunteering.

It's not too early to volunteer your help! If you are interested in helping to set up the onegs, serving as an usher, assisting with child care, or setting up the sanctuary, your help would be very much appreciated. Call Scott Mezistrano at 681-1714.

### The Not So Distant Sound of the Shofar

Every Friday night service during the month of Elul (which begins this year in mid-August) will include a blast of the shofar, reminding us that the Yamim Nora'im (the Days of Awe) are approaching. And, of course, there will be plenty of shofar calls during Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur themselves.

If you have always wanted to blow the shofar at services or have even just been interested in how it is done, this is your year! Marion Trentman, one of CSZ's seasoned trumpeters, is organizing a series of instructional sessions. The class will be held in the CSZ Library over three Wednesdays: July 31, August 7 and 14th.

Some interesting details (guest lecturer, audio tapes, opportunity to purchase your own shofar) are still being worked out. If you are interested in taking the class, call Marion at 837-1179, and be sure to fill out the enclosed High Holiday Participation Form to put your new skill into action.

### **CSZ Trip To Israel?**

Over the past few years, several members have mentioned an interest in visiting Israel on a CSZ-sponsored trip. Rabbi Kahn has expressed his interest in leading such a trip with the cooperation of ARZA'a tours of Israel and of the Agudah, our sibling organization in Israel.

Recognizing the need to schedule vacations well in advance, it's not too early to begin planning. Spring (Pesach?) or Autumn 1992 might be a desirable time for a 1-2 week trip, with options to extend it in Israel or Europe.

We want to invite sibling congregations to join us as more attractive packages tend to be available with 20 or more participants.

No CSZ trip is possible, however, without careful planning and a committee to carry out the many logistical tasks. Ron Lezell, Israel Chavurah Chair, would be pleased to participate on such a committee and to set up its first meeting.

If you are interested in visiting Israel as a congregation, and/or willing to help, please contact Ron at 824-4449. If there is sufficient interest in organizing such a trip, a first meeting will be scheduled for July or Early August.

L'shana haba-ah b'Yerushalim??

### **From the Rabbi**

A Letter from Israel

*Gila Svirsky is the Israel Director*

*of the New Israel Fund. She was originally schedule to speak at Sha'ar Zahav at services on January 25. Her trip was interrupted because of the outbreak of the war. Brenda Bodenheimer, Program Director for the Fund in Israel, was able to be here and she read a letter that Gila had faxed from Israel that morning. Gila's letter remains timely and I am glad to share it with you.*

Dear members of the Sha'ar Zahav family,

I think of you as family, and I think of myself as part of this family, even though I have never been to your congregation or, in fact, was only once briefly in San Francisco. Being with you would have been, for me, like coming home. Like coming home and coming out to people who love and support me. I can see your attentive faces, and my eyes tear as you look on. It feels fine. Like crying with family.

These have been very difficult days for all of us in Israel. I know that you as Jews are looking for ways to express your concern, and from the many phone calls I receive, I think that in some ways it's harder for you to worry from a distance than for us to live through it. Let me say that your worrying is very helpful. When you call or write or pray for us, we feel it. The cumulative effect of all of your caring has been overwhelming, simply overwhelming, and has given us great support.

All war, everywhere, is horrible, but this war somehow seems more evil than the other four wars I have lived through in Israel because of the fear of chemical attack. Many of us hold strong anti-war and non-violence beliefs, but I caution against taking a simplistic view of this war, or what should be done to end it. We have to be careful about not idealizing war or the military or even the suffering that we feel, and to get through these difficult

days as quickly as possible. And then we have to put even greater energy into bringing peace to the Middle East. If only those hundreds of millions of dollars, and imagination and energy would have been invested in efforts to forge peace rather than wreak destruction.

Brenda will be bringing you words about the New Israel Fund. I am proud to be associated with the Fund. I am especially proud that they chose me as Director, knowing that I'm gay, and I'm proud that the New Israel Fund supports gay rights in Israel. There are other gay members of our Board. And all of us care very deeply about Israel and about being Jewish and about the kind of society that we want Israel to be.

The emotional scars of this war will last a long time on the children and the adults of Israel. There is nothing that any of us can do to prevent these traumas from happening, now that this terrible chain of events has been set into motion. What I ask you all to consider is how to prevent the next cycle from ever beginning. The cycle of recurring wars in the Middle East can be broken, if we care enough about addressing the underlying issues of hate and prejudice and intolerance; if we care enough to support programs which educate for coexistence and peace.

You can be proud of Israel. Not just because of the war, but because Israel is a special place, with enormous achievements and courage and dignity....and because it's home for us all, even if you choose not to live here. Israel is home because that's what our family worries about when things go wrong there. This family, the family of Sha'ar Zahav, and all the families of Jews throughout the world have their own places which are special to them, and we also have Israel, which is something that we all agonize over together. That's the family

home. You might not want to live there, but you get fiercely protective about your sense of belonging to it.

You can be proud of Israel. We don't always do the right thing, and we have even done some pretty awful things, but we keep trying to make it better. We try from Israel, and you try from the States, with your love and your nagging and your support. We need your nagging. Don't stop. And we also need your love and support.

God bless you for nagging us so much and for being there when we need you. You're the best family anyone could ask for. Take care of yourselves. And keep us in your prayers.

#### **Marvin Henry Steele**

**Sept 18, 1932 - March 31, 1991**

CSZ member Marvin Steele died on the second day of Passover after living with AIDS for several years. A man of great gentleness, Marvin was beloved of those who knew him - especially his mother and his lover, Rudy Bean, with whom he enjoyed 29 wonderful years. Rudy and Marvin enjoyed traveling together, to far off countries or to the mountains. When his health did not allow him to travel as he once did, Marvin could still take pleasure in the beauty around him - going for a drive down Highway 1 and stopping in at the Pacifica Taco Bell which had, he believed, the best view of any fast food restaurant in the world. Marvin's humor, appreciation for beauty and love will be missed by the many whose lives he touched. May his memory be for blessing.

#### **Long Range Plan**

We are pleased to announce that the Congregation's long range plan is complete. On May 13, 1991, the Va'ad voted to adopt

the new long range plan as the congregation's policy. The plan spells out our hopes and aspirations for Sha'ar Zahav for the next five years, and specifically sets forth concrete steps we need to take to reach those aspirations. The plan also specifies when each concrete task will be done, and who will do it.

Copies of the plan (autographed by the members of the long range planning committee!) will be available at the congregational meeting (suggested donation \$3.00 [our cost]). An abbreviated version of the plan (without the detailed tasks) will be mailed out to the congregation shortly.

#### **CSZ High Holiday Service schedule - Clip and Attach to your Refrigerator!**

All services will be held at the Unitarian Center (1187 Franklin at Geary) unless otherwise noted.

##### **Selichot**

Saturday, August 31 - 9:00 pm at CSZ

**Erev Rosh Hashana, Sunday September 8**  
7:30 pm, Ma'ariv

**Rosh Hashana, First Day, Monday September 9**  
10:00 am, Shacharit, Musaf, and Children's service

1:30 pm, Seudat Mitzvah (festive meal) at Fort Point

3:00 pm, Tashlich at Fort Point

**Rosh Hashana, Second Day, Tuesday September 10**  
10:00 am, Shacharit and Musaf at CSZ

**Erev Yom Kippur, Tuesday September 17**  
7:30 pm, Kol Nidre

**Yom Kippur, Wednesday September 18**  
10:00 am, Shacharit, Musaf, and children's service

3:30 pm, Minchah

5:00 pm, Yizkor, Neilah, and Havdallah

June 1991

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Congregational meeting 1:00	3	4	5	6 Children's Education mtg. 7:30	7 8:15 Shabbat services Scott Mezistrano Daniel Chesir	8
9	10 Va'ad meeting 6:30 - Library	11	12	13	14 8:15 Shabbat services Rabbi Kahn & Rabbi Maggie Wennig	15 10:30 am Shabbat services Rabbi Kahn & Steve Weitz
16	17	18 Ritual Committee Mtg. 6:30	19	20 Bikkur Cholim 6:30 Library Education meeting 7:00	21 8:15 Shabbat Services Mike Rankin  <b>East Bay Services</b> 8:15 2431 Burlington, Oakland	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 8:15 Shabbat Services Rabbi Kahn & Susan Unger	29 10:30 am Shabbat Services Tiela Chalmers Aaron Frankel <hr/> 30 10:30 am Kaiser Brunch Kaiser Hosp.

## HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES PARTICIPATION FORM

We at CSZ try to provide an opportunity for each member to participate in High Holiday services. There will be Hebrew chants, readings in English, and shofar blowing opportunities for the various services. Only members who return this form to the synagogue office by Friday June 28 can be assured an opportunity to participate.

### ALERT!

If you are interested in blowing the shofar at High Holiday services, in addition to sending in this form, call Marion Trentman at 837-1179 for details on the Shofar Blowing class

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to learn a Hebrew chant  
 I can read Hebrew well

I can chant from the Torah  
 I would like to blow the Shofar

I will be at the following services:

All services

### ROSH HASHANAH

Sunday evening (Ma'ariv), September 8  
 Monday morning (Shacharit & Musaf), September 9

### YOM KIPPUR

Tuesday evening (Kol Nidre), September 17  
 Wednesday morning (Shacharit & Musaf), September 18  
 Wednesday late afternoon (Yizkor & Neilah), September 18

I would prefer a reading at \_\_\_\_\_

We will try to accommodate preferences as much as possible.

Parts will be mailed the week of July 22. 

There will be practice sessions following services on Friday, August 16 and Friday, August 23 for anyone who wants to practice a part. You are required to attend at least one session if you are chanting a prayer or a portion from the Torah.

Return to: Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers Street,  
San Francisco, CA 94114, no later than Friday June 28.

MAILING LIST FOR THE SAN FRANCISCO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Business address of telephone number or business name above or yr 220 is not  
the same as the registered name of the company. Please indicate  
the correct name and address of your company and its telephone number.

1793A

Business address - name of firm - telephone number  
and location of office - name of company and address of  
its principal office.

220 Danvers St.  
San Francisco CA 94114